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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 recites allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this early indication of allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form thereby placing it in condition for allowance. Insofar as claim 6 retains its original scope, Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 6 does not narrow or change the scope of allowable claim 6.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their representatives during a personal interview conducted on March 31, 2004. The substance of the interview is discussed further below in the context of the rejections to which such substance pertains.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 7, and 20 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention; rejected claims 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,882,565 issued to Gallmeyer; rejected claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,481,409 issued to Roberts; objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter; objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a); and objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5).

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification; amended the drawings; amended claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 20 in order to more clearly define the present invention; and have added new claims 21 and 22 to claim additional features of the present invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-22 shall be pending with claims 2, 3, 7, and 20 withdrawn from consideration.

With respect to the withdrawal of claims 2, 3, 7, and 20 from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is an allowable generic claim, at least as to claims 2, 3, and 7. Applicants therefore request that at least claims 2, 3, and 7 be rejoined and allowed with claim 1. Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable for the reasons below.

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With respect to the rejection of claims 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and the objection to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis, it was discussed during the interview that Applicants need only amend the specification in the manner as now presented to the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 26 and the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification and the rejection of claims 8-19 should now be withdrawn. It is noted that claims 8-19 are not otherwise rejected and thus are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). The Examiner contends that the drawings do not show the “baffle subassembly disposed between said light sources and said indicia panel.” Applicants submit, however, that the baffle subassembly corresponds to the “foam light seal 134,” which is clearly depicted in Figs. 18 and 20-23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) for including reference signs not mentioned in the description, Applicants have proposed herein amendments to drawing figures 15, 16, and 26 whereby reference numerals 131', 116A, 120A, 170A, 192A, 193A, 194A, and 195A have been changed to 146', 116, 120, 170, 192, 193, 194, and 195, respectively. Accordingly, this particular objection to the drawings may now be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) for failing to include reference numerals that are mentioned in the description, Applicants have amended Fig. 26 by adding reference numeral 115A and by changing 121 and 122 to 121A and 122A, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection to the drawings may now be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gallmeyer. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that Gallmeyer does not teach an indicia panel having a characteristic color, which matches the light source (see Examiner Interview Summary Record). The Examiner asked that the claim language of claim 1 be clarified. The Applicants' representatives pointed out that the claims had previously been

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amended per the prior Examiner's suggestions. Applicants have now amended claim 1 to refer to "a panel covering the opening, said panel configured to form a visual display of indicia, the indicia having a characteristic color." Claim 1 further recites that the mirror comprises "at least one light source positioned in the housing to emit light through the indicia on the panel and through the opening of the mirror subassembly to selectively illuminate the indicia, the at least one light source emitting a light matched in color to the characteristic color of the indicia." Applicants submit that claim 1 clearly defines the present invention. In light of the Examiner's agreement that Gallmeyer does not disclose an indicia panel having a characteristic color that matches the light source, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over Gallmeyer.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts. Again, as pointed out above, the Examiner agreed during the interview that the prior art, including the Roberts patent, does not teach an indicia panel having a characteristic color that matches the light source. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and claims 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

By this Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 21 and 22 to claim additional features of the present invention. Claims 21 and 22 both depend from independent claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present invention as defined by the claims is allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner's

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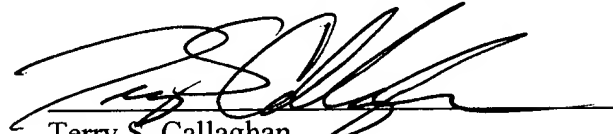
reconsideration and timely allowance of the claims is requested. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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